

New York Tribune.

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The Munsey Trust Deal.

If there is nothing to conceal in the Munsey trust affair in Washington why are there such efforts at concealment? All the explaining has been done by Mr. Munsey, and all he can tell is that he was mysteriously elected to be the Santa Claus of Washington, though candidly refraining to invest \$500,000 of his own good money in "generosity." The official participants in the deal have studiously declined to give the facts about it. And Washington bankers, indignant that their credit was used in a doubtfully legal way to give a huge advertisement to Mr. Munsey and his bank when Mr. Munsey himself declined to invest \$500,000 of his own cash in the enterprise, have been warned not to speak under pain of we know not what.

Senator Stone scolded some of them at length, and New York bankers on general principles, in a speech alleging that for favoring banking interests Secretaries of the Treasury and Assistant Secretaries have been rewarded with lucrative banking positions. Perhaps some have been. And if they have it is a scandal which the administration banking bill does well to end by forbidding banks under the authority of Congress from employing Treasury officials within a certain number of years after their retirement from office.

But if this has been a scandal it does not excuse the covering up of favoritism within the Treasury Department at the present time. And it is impossible to explain, in the absence of light from the Treasury Department, the Munsey trust deal upon any other theory than gross favoritism. The facts are that an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury who through members of his family is closely associated in banking with Mr. Munsey went to extraordinary lengths to make Mr. Munsey the Washington Santa Claus, inducing or forcing the other banks of Washington to lend themselves to a scheme to get around the law which forbade the government to have relations with Mr. Munsey's trust company, overlooking Mr. Munsey's refusal to carry out the promise of his representative, which was one of the considerations for the banks lending their credit to the deal, and capping it all by giving Mr. Munsey a handsome advertisement in an official statement.

Senator Stone is interested in the rewards which Treasury officials have received for favors shown to banks. Much more important than the rewards are the favors. Here is a present case which looks like extraordinary favoritism. It should be investigated.

Mr. Johnson's Foolish Methods.

Fire Commissioner Johnson's hot-headedness precipitated a disgraceful scene at the aldermanic hearing on the two-platoon ordinance for the Fire Department. The presence there of men in uniform to advocate it may have offended his sense of propriety; it may have been contrary to his idea of discipline. But, after all, the men were entitled to their side of the case, just as Commissioner Johnson was to his, and, unless they were supposed to be on duty, committed no offense in attending the hearing great enough to warrant his ordering them from the room.

The demand for a two-platoon system will never be stifled by the department's head using his official position to discipline the men who favor it. It appears to be wholly unsuited to this city's needs. Chief Keelon, with his years of experience, is against it. Property owners and mercantile organizations with facilities for investigating its results in other cities are against it. The firemen themselves, if thoroughly convinced that it is an unwise plan and that the city's interest precludes its consideration, are sure to drop it in time. But they'll never be convinced while a Commissioner makes foolish efforts to shut off all discussion of it by the men themselves, who are so deeply concerned.

The Needs of the Navy Yard.

Captain Van Duzer's paper, read before the Naval Architects and Marine Engineers the other day, will revive dispute as to whether the local navy yard should be kept where it is or removed to some other part of the harbor, but it suggests certain fundamental facts concerning which there can scarcely be any difference of opinion.

One is that the navy yard at New York should be made and kept the largest and most important in the land, and should have every possible equipment that can be desired for its efficiency. That is because this is the most accessible point by land and sea; because it is the greatest center of production and supply, and because it is the most commodious and most securely protected of all American harbors.

An indisputable corollary is that the site of the yard within the limits of New York should be determined by its availability for raising the yard to the highest efficiency. If that can be done at the present site the yard should be kept there. If not, and if some other site assures better advantages, it should be removed thither. The sole consideration should be the welfare of the naval service.

Salary Standardization for City Workers.

Mr. Mitchell's promise that the incoming city administration will continue and extend the salary standardization work begun by this one is bound to be a comfort to the faithful city employees. What it implies is bound to be no less distressing to those who have a place on the city payroll through some brand of pull.

The city's payrolls are one of its greatest fixed charges. Also there has been less knowledge and wisdom displayed in the compensation of the men who do the city's work than in any other form of municipal activity. Salary standardization does not mean skimping men who give an honest day's work.

It is more likely to increase their pay than to reduce it. But, adequately carried out, it will make the shirkers work or get out and make merit the test of advancement rather than pull.

Let the Presidents Get Together.

That is an exceptionally engaging suggestion which comes from Paris that Mr. Poincaré may visit the United States before the expiration of his term as President of the French Republic. There is every year a lot of visiting among the monarchs of Europe, which is sometimes fruitful of good results in the improvement of international relations. There is also some visiting between the French President and the neighboring monarchs. Surely there is no good reason why the Presidents of the two greatest republics in the world should not also call upon each other, while there are strong reasons, based on both sentiment and practical interest, why they should do so.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Wilson is quite right in saying that a visit from the French President would be regarded here with great pleasure, but it will be regretted that he added that he saw no likelihood of being able himself to make a return trip to France. It would, of course, be a striking novelty for an American President to visit a European country, but this is a time of novelties and new departures, and we can imagine few of the kind more interesting or more promising of agreeable results than this.

Why not let it be seen that there is an international fraternity among Presidents as well as among Kings; and also that an American President may be a world visitor just as truly as his country is a world power?

A Reason for Tammany.

Cassandra-like, Mrs. J. Borden Harriman told the rejoicing fusion workers that reform movements in the past had failed because they were too dignified and too removed from the common herd. Tammany kept its power because it was in close touch with the ordinary people of each district and showed evidences of human sympathy, she said.

It is somewhat unfortunate that the reformer, however well meant his efforts to drag his fellow human beings out of the error of their ways, almost always becomes labelled "highbrow" and serves to point the moral of the inefficiency of the amateur in politics. Undoubtedly it comes about because of the innate perversity of humanity, which dislikes to see virtue so concentrated. Tammany, though a sinner, is a genial sort of sinner at most times, and is too likely to awaken a fellow feeling among the ordinary folks who are conscious of their own weaknesses and their ineligibility for the robes of the elect. It is to be hoped Mrs. Harriman's words will induce the incoming city administration not to be so virtuous in reform as to cease to be human.

What Happened at Tampico.

Rear Admiral Fletcher's action at Tampico was apparently quite different from what British advisers at first made it appear. The British commander's report to the British Minister described it as outright intervention; which would have been a very serious matter. It now seems to have been simple protection to Americans and other foreigners; which was as proper as the other would have been questionable.

Much as the devastation and slaughter which prevail in Mexico are to be deplored, this country could not order them to be stopped unless it meant intervention at the probable cost of a general war with the whole country. But when non-combatant Americans and others through a neutral zone in some port, it is entirely legitimate to require that they shall not be fired upon by either of the belligerents.

That seems to be what the American commander did, and if so he is entitled to commendation for his discretion and decision. The Mexicans may fight their battle out, but they must have suitable regard for the safety of other people.

The Spread of Improvement.

Improvement is infectious. It is not to be expected that the millennium will arrive with New Year's Day, yet when a Democratic Legislature gulps advanced reform measures as if it liked them, and a couple of Democratic Surrogates lop off the heads of a Tammany district leader and some more of the faithful jobholders, things certainly are stirring.

These evidences of virtue may be traced directly to the decision of the voters to be virtuous enough themselves to keep Tammany away from this city's treasury. Perhaps even Tammany may become virtuous presently—when it's been beaten a few more times.

Germany, England and the Fair.

The German government's postponement of the appropriation bill for representation at the Panama-Pacific Exposition will cause less surprise than regret, but nothing like consternation or despair to the promoters of that enterprise. Some days ago it was evident that the bill was imperiled in the face of a bureaucratic opposition which certainly does not represent the nation. Great Britain, too, persists in official refusal to take part in the fair. Apparently neither country considers that it has \$1,250,000 to spare for such a purpose.

At the same time in both countries there is a degree of popular and business interest in the fair surpassing any ever seen before on such an occasion, and this is coupled with an unprecedented flood of protests, appeals and what not against the decisions of the two governments. The net outlook is, then, that if these two governments do persist in holding aloof they will stand practically alone among important powers in doing so; and they will, moreover, stand aloof from their own citizens, who now give every promise of sending exceptionally large and interesting exhibits to the fair.

Cleansing the Wells of English.

There is little enough for a Poet Laureate to do these days, so it is not difficult to understand why Dr. Bridges has set himself to the task of rescuing the English language from slovenly tongues. Busier mortals might prefer a smaller task. But Dr. Bridges, with the aid of Mr. Thomas Hardy, the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary and sundry other Oxford professors, is eagerly organizing "a society of scholars" for the "encouragement of the use of pure English."

Dr. Bridges's criticism of present day corruptions has already been published. "Neycher" for "nature," "chime" for "time," "jowling" for "pouring," the omission of the "h" from "wheel" and "when"—all the modern shuffling of difficult syllables arouses his ire. He would send Englishmen to Ireland or Scotland to learn their "r" and "h."

There has been a chorus of praise for the movement. And yet the very praise has indicated the

confusion and difficulty which face these restorers. The English that Johnson spoke has been stated as the ideal before the reformers. Yet some critics have scoffed at the idea that Johnsonian pronunciation was ideal. Also the Oxford source of the movement has led to sharp comments upon the lax standard of pronunciation upheld by the Concise Oxford Dictionary. That volume took pronunciation as its authors found it in everyday English speech, with some alarming results. Such versions as "carry" for "carriage," "mountain" for "mountain," "jewel" for "jewel" and "fore" for "forehead" were conspicuous.

Altogether, we fear that Dr. Bridges is facing an almost insuperable task. The ways of tongues are unfortunately most difficult to change, even if you can agree on the standard to which they should conform. We wish him well. But the wells of English strike pretty deep—beyond the control of most societies of scholars, it has appeared in the past.

A Gridiron Club dinner without the President on the gridiron—well, please don't let it happen again!

"Mona Lisa" now has a new cause for her mysterious smile.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"Sharpe is certainly a pleasant fellow," said the Bore to the Ready Listener. "I had never even seen him before to-day, and he was all fussed up with business, but he certainly was very pleasant." "What did he say to you?" asked the Ready Listener, stifling a yawn. "Say to me? Why, I had only been talking to him for half an hour before he invited me three times to call and see him again."

"He surely has a hopeful disposition." "Yes, I found out that during the holidays he kept his stocking hanging up for three days after Christmas."—Lippincott's.

The craze for advertising coupons, stamps and novelties which has broken out in Germany has been termed "the latest children's disease." In every home where there is a boy or a girl "Reklam-marken album" may be found, in which the series of cards, stamps, etc., issued by various enterprising concerns are arranged. "So seriously do the youngsters take this collection business," says the "Berlin Post," "that values have been established, and collectors and dealers meet daily at the Victoria-Luise Platz, where the trading is done. The prices fluctuate in keeping with supply and demand, and the group of little operators is a good miniature of the more pretentious exchange, where other printed papers represent fantastic values."

Father Adam may have had troubles of his own, but at any rate Eve never flashed his old love letters on him.—Philadelphia Record.

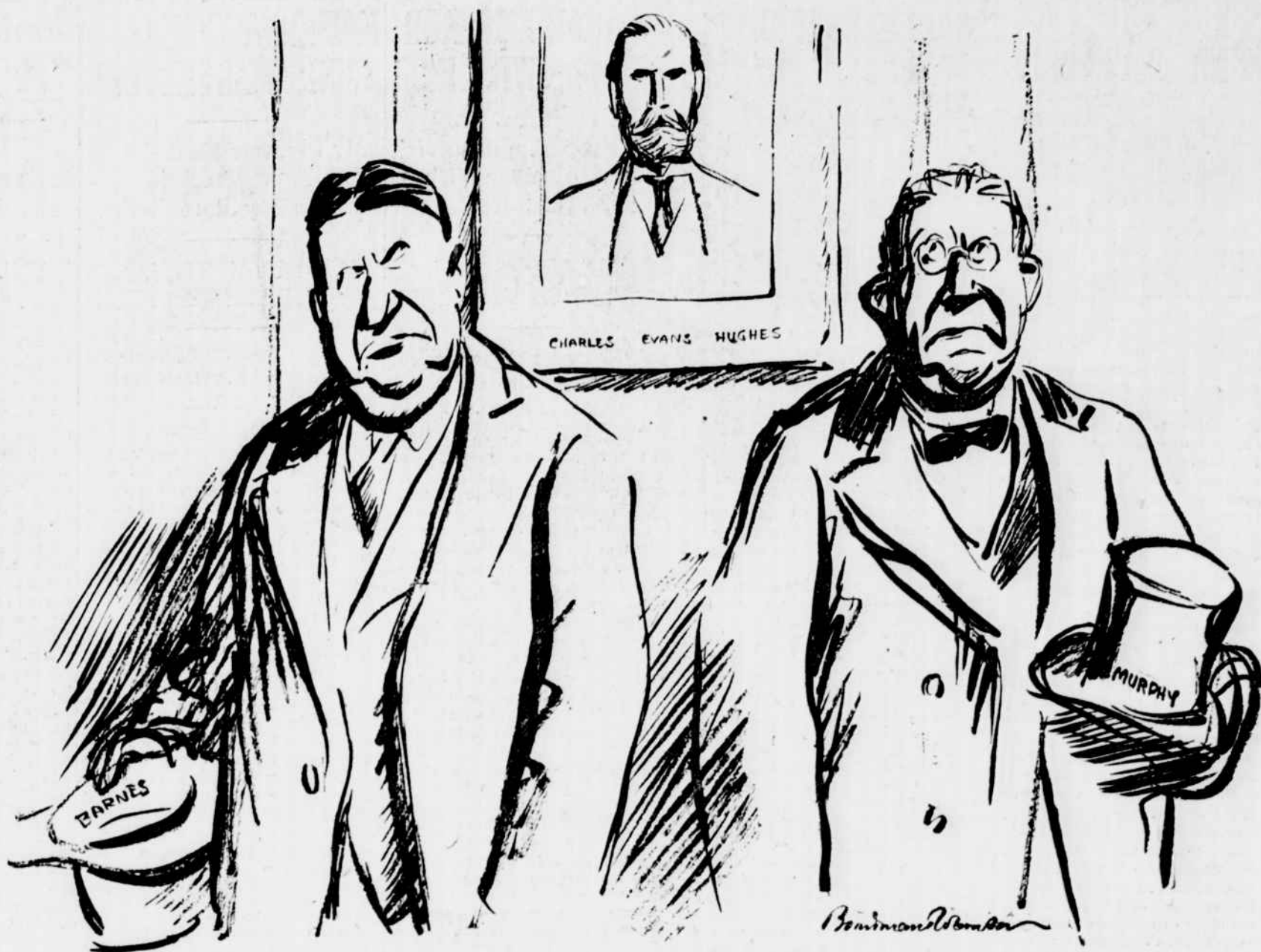
In a description of an Arab feast in honor of a visiting dignitary "The North African News" gives the following as the "main features" of the meal, which is spoken of as having been "a royal repast": "A sheep roasted whole and filled with pistachio nuts; the national 'couscous,' the dish both of rich and poor, served up with roast chicken and ornamented with a wreath of hard boiled eggs cut in slices. Then 'chikouka,' composed of capscums, tomatoes and eggs beaten up with oil and lemon juice; cakes spread with butter and honey; artichokes dressed like Spanish onions, but prepared with the pistils of bean flowers; cakes of semolina, kneaded with dates; and pastry of various kinds seasoned with sugar and the essence of rose and jasmine."

"Are you a spelling reformer?" "I am—to the extent of not believing that Mc-Mix ought to be recognized as the Irish word for '1900.'"—Washington Star.

SADLY IN NEED OF THE LIGHT.

From The New York Sun.
Public interest is manifestly on the increase with regard to the recent amazing transaction between the Treasury Department and the Munsey Trust Company, in Washington. A general appreciation of the extreme gravity of the incident is fast eclipsing its more or less humorous aspects, as afforded by Frank A. Munsey's explanation of his personal motives and of the reasons why the \$500,000 relief fund volunteered in his name did not materialize for the benefit of the anxious depositors of the United States Trust. There never was a case involving the use or misuse of the power to control government deposits which was more sadly in need of clearing up. It is not from Frank A. Munsey or from R. Lancaster Williams that further explanatory statement is desirable, but from the Secretary of the Treasury himself. Mr. McAdoo should speak, explicitly and officially. John Skelton Williams, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, should speak. If they can give no satisfactory explanation of the legality and distinctness of this department's course then Congress should promptly order an investigation.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.



Murphy—He told Glynn about that direct primary.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

PORTO RICO AND PHILIPPINES

Their Difference in Law, Morals and Expediency.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In a recent editorial article you may have misled your readers who have not followed the subject, and I call upon you to explain and set them right on the following point.

You urge that there is no distinction between our relations to the Philippines and to Porto Rico. True, both were ceded by the Spanish on the same terms. But did not the Porto Ricans welcome us with open arms? Is there any evidence that we did not occupy with the "consent of the governed"? How different with the Philippines? There was an organized government of a people who had been passionately fighting for independence for generations and against an alien oppressor. To obtain the consent of the governed, we had to send 75,000 men, armed and equipped with the most destructive weapons, before they "consented." Does The Tribune see no difference from a moral point of view?

Coming to matters of policy, how stands the equation? Which possession is the more easily defended? Porto Rico is an appanage of this continent, physically, and its possession by a great power would be a costly menace to us. It is useless to point out the contrast in that respect in the matter of the other "gem." Is there not, then, ample ground for the "discrimination" of which you complain, in the policy of the President?

GEORGE R. COBURN,
Lowell, Mass., Dec. 9, 1913.

[The Tribune's reference was, of course, to the legal title of the United States to those islands. In moral title there is no such difference as our correspondent seems to think if any at all. Both Porto Rico and the Philippines had long been protesting and rebelling, whenever possible, against Spanish misgovernment, and both welcomed the intervention of the United States. The best evidence obtainable was that the Philippine insurrection did not originally include any well defined notion of independent national existence. Expert and impartial non-American testimony was that the masses of the Filipinos did not desire independence and that Aguinaldo's rebellion represented only one-half of one per cent of the population. As to the question of policy, as to which possession is the more easily defended, we cannot concede its pertinence to what our correspondent regards as primarily a moral issue. His objection to holding the Philippines on that ground is equivalent to refusing to perform a duty that is difficult or costly.—Ed.]

ANOTHER SIDESWIPED VICTIM

The Protest Against the Extended Feather Continues.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I have read with much interest the editorial and letters on the "Sideswiped Feather" and would like to add my most emphatic indorsement to the sentiments expressed therein.

I am one of the many unfortunate who are compelled to wear glasses, and am also very tall—only 5 feet 2 inches—combination of things which makes feathers and hats doubly dangerous, especially in elevators, where one usually has not room to dodge or move away.

I do hope that other women will agree with "Lady Patrick Henry" and say so, as does

"LADY PATRICK HENRY'S" SISTER,
Dobbs Ferry-on-Hudson, Dec. 11, 1913.

THE ATRATO RIVER CANAL

An Old Prediction Favoring the Colombian Route Is Cited.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Reading your article in to-day's Tribune regarding possible concessions to the Pearson Company, Ltd., of London, I am reminded of a previous article in your paper in which it was conjectured that possibly this was an attempt to obtain control of lands and waterways sufficient to make a second canal feasible across the Isthmus and reaching the Pacific by way of the Atrato River.

In 1860 the writer was a student in St. John's College, Hattersea, London.
Professor Hewitt was our lecturer on

PHYSICAL, POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY.

He came into the lecture room one morning, now fifty-three years ago, and stated that he wished to predict that if ever a canal should be cut through the Isthmus of Panama it would follow the line of the Atrato River.

I have often spoken about this prediction, and did so to ex-Senator Warner Miller, who spoke to the National Association of Manufacturers at its inauguration in Cincinnati, when he was advocating the Nicaragua route.

WILLIAM FOSTER,
Newburgh, N. Y., Dec. 12, 1913.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE Y. M. C. A.

Another View Is Expressed as to the Organization's Rule.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The communication in your issue of the 8th inst. with the heading "Jews Not Barred" is so misleading as to demand a plain statement of the facts. The cards used for application for membership contain this: "The Young Men's Christian Association seek to unite those young men who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be His disciples in their doctrine and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His kingdom among young men."

One may become an associate member, having neither voice nor vote in association affairs, without subscribing to this doctrine, but only those that say they regard Jesus as God can become active members. "The young men of the Jewish race" mentioned by your correspondent as belonging to his branch of the association must be associate members, and Meyer J. Samuelson probably was unwilling to occupy this subordinate position, and was restrained by the First Commandment from regarding Jesus as God.

A few years ago an attempt was made to form a branch of the Young Men's Christian Association here from members of all the Protestant denominations, which failed because young men that did not regard Jesus as God could be admitted to only inferior positions in the association.

VOLNEY S. FULHAM,
Ludlow, Vt., Dec. 12, 1913.

OVER-PRESSURE NOT EFFICIENT

Better Industrial Results from Avoiding Excessive Strain.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The testimony given at the conference of the Museum of Safety as to the danger to workers from exhaustion, mental and physical, from working at high pressure deserves special attention, as in it is involved a question not only of industrial efficiency but of human life. Surely the life of the wage earner is worth more than any of the things he makes, and then, too, if he is sacrificed to the demon of efficiency there is waste, and not conservation, of human effort and life.

Scientists have shown clearly how necessary is the short day in industry, that fatigue is nature's warning signal that the limit of activity is approaching, and also that in the tired hours most of those accidents which are preventable occur, as well as a lessening of the output, which is a loss in efficiency and profits. Here science and humanity are at agreement.

At Jena, Germany, in the optical works, where once the twelve-hour day was in practice, and now the time is eight hours, thirty men do the work that thirty-one men formerly did, and each man did ten days' more work during the first year the experiment was made. Also, at the Engels Chemical Works, in Belgium, in less than six months after the experiment was inaugurated the works had equalled in seven and one-half hours the daily wage for eight hours' work equalled the wage previously earned in ten hours. And there was less drinking on the part of the workers, as they did not feel the same need to repair themselves as in the longer day, and the men also acquired better habits of cleanliness—a sign of a new self-respect.

Surely it is time to cry a halt on the nerve racking, mind freezing system of industry, which, as Bishop Potter put it, "has begun to grind living men as well as inanimate matter."

J. C. PUMPELLY,
New York, Dec. 11, 1913.

SUFFRAGE IN THE SOUTH

The Appeal to Congress Showed Its Progress in That Section.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Among the twenty-eight anti-suffrage speakers at the recent Congressional hearings on woman suffrage there was only one woman from a Southern state. Among the suffrage speakers there were seven Southern women. Three of them were from Alabama, and after Congressman Hefflin, of Alabama, had made a wonderfully sentimental and flowery speech against votes for women the three Alabama ladies arose, one after another, and answered him in addresses remarkable for brevity and sound common sense. Louisiana, Tennessee and Kentucky were represented at the hearings by able speakers, and the national suffrage convention, which was going on in Washington at the same time, fairly swarmed with delegates from Virginia, Maryland, Texas and a long list of Southern states. The South has been called the stronghold of conservatism on the woman suffrage question, but the last few years have marked a great change.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL,
Dorchester, Mass., Dec. 7, 1913.

Our Puzzling Policy in Mexico.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I wish you would explain to me and your other readers this contradiction:

The administration and the newspapers who support it have insisted for months past that the object of the refusal to have anything to do with the Mexican government was to discourage revolutions in Latin-American countries. The administration officials and the same newspapers openly express their gratification with the revolutionists in Mexico. Does it mean that we are for revolutions when they serve our selfish interests and against them when they do not? Then why do we talk of "morality above expediency"?

What does it mean? PUZZLED.
Grantwood, N. J., Dec. 12, 1913.

Honor in Defeat.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Is it not becoming more apparent every day that it was an honor to go down in defeat—and glory—with a man of the calibre of William H. Taft—defeated but not dishonored. Phenix-like he will rise again.

C. SCHWEITZER,
South Orange, N. J., Dec. 12, 1913.

A Single Taxer Cries "Stop Thief!"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: What is the difference between thieving political contractors and a land owning class that robs the people of New York City every year of \$30,000,000 of their ground rents? Can it be that retail hawking is a vice and wholesale stealing a virtue?

H. C. MAQUIRE,
Brooklyn, Dec. 6, 1913.

STILL IN THE FAMILY.

From The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Now they are contending that man came before the anthropoid ape—that he is the forefather and not the descendant.

This may be gratifying, but it doesn't raise the embargo of anxiety from a lot of sensitive people.

Some of them may still follow out a branch of the family tree and find it decorated with chattering monkeys.

POSSIBLY BOREAS WAS.

From The Baltimore Sun.

That eminent archeologist, Gelett Burgess, who discovered the purple cow and verbal bromides, assures us that the ark was the first apartment house, and it had a basement and roof garden. May we ask his learned eminence one question: Was Ham the janitor?

IT MIGHTN'T BE SO BAD.

From The Albany Journal.

Practical persons never see a chrysanthemum without thinking it ought to be possible to make some kind of salad out of it.

UNREPENTANT.

From The Detroit Free Press.

Harry Kemp says he is going to write a lot of poems when he gets out of jail. That's a fine spirit of revenge.